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DAREDEVIL

"Fall from Grace"
chapter 5



MCDANIEL

MOMENTS ETCHED
IN TIME, FRAGILE
LIKE GLASS.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

A YOUNG MATT MURDOCK
NEGLECTS LAW STUDIES
FOR THE "EDUCATION"
ELEKTRA NATCHIOS
HAS TO OFFER.

CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION.

RECKLESS BRAVERY
CONSPIRES AGAINST
THE COUPLE--

--A HOSTAGE CRISIS
ENDING IN DEATH
AND TRAGEDY.

LET GO OF
ME! POPPA!
POPPA!

WE TRIED TO
SAVE HIM...

IT'S TOO LATE. HIS
HEART... IT'S STOPPED.

A BLEAK GRAVEYARD.

THE FIRE THAT MARKED
THEIR AFFAIR DIES OUT.
ELEKTRA'S EMOTIONS
GROW COLD IN GRIEF.

ELEKTRA... DON'T!

PLEASE DON'T GO...

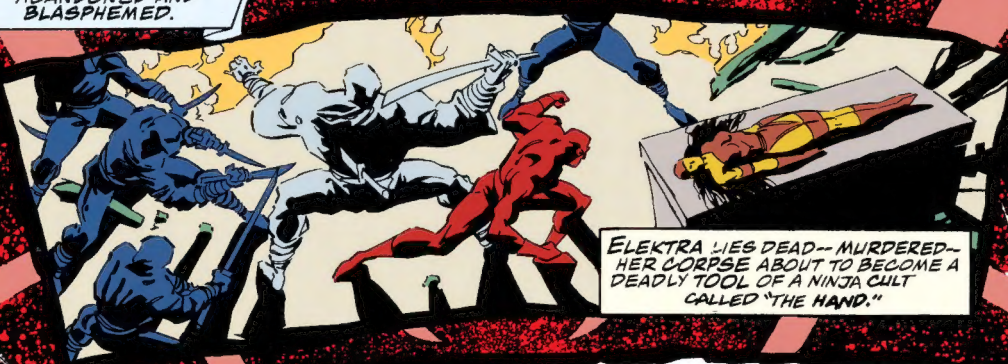
MANHATTAN.

YEARS LATER, AND
CRUEL FATE TURNS
LOVERS INTO
ENEMIES.

MATT NOW
DAREDEVIL,
A CHAMPION
OF JUSTICE...

... ELEKTRA A
MERCENARY
AND ASSASSIN
FOR HIRE.

AN INNER CITY CHURCH,
ABANDONED AND
BLASPHEMED.



ELEKTRA LIES DEAD-- MURDERED--
HER CORPSE ABOUT TO BECOME A
DEADLY TOOL OF A NINJA CULT
CALLED "THE HAND."

PROTECTED BY THE SHADOW
WARRIOR STONE, MURDOCK
HAS ONLY SECONDS TO
REALIZE A MAD DESIRE.

PITTING HIS PASSION
AGAINST DEATH.

HOPING HIS LOVE CAN BE A
BEACON THAT WILL LEAD THE
WOMAN BACK TO LIFE.

IF THERE'S ANY WAY
TO BRING YOU BACK--
I'LL DO IT--



YOURS IS A
VALIANT SPIRIT,
MURDOCK, BUT
YOU LACK THE
TRAINING FOR
SO COMPLEX A
RITUAL.

NOW I MUST
FINISH THIS
BUSINESS... THAT
THE BITTER DARK-
NESS WITHIN ELEKTRA
NEVER BE
MISUSED!

I COULDN'T DO
IT, ELEKTRA. JUST
DON'T KNOW HOW...

...I'M SORRY...



SOMETHING
ABOUT HER...

...SHE... SHE
IS CLEAN!...
MURDOCK... HE
HAS PURGED
HER! THE HATRED
WITHIN-- GONE!

A PURITY
THAT GIVES
COLD FLESH...
NEW WARMTH...



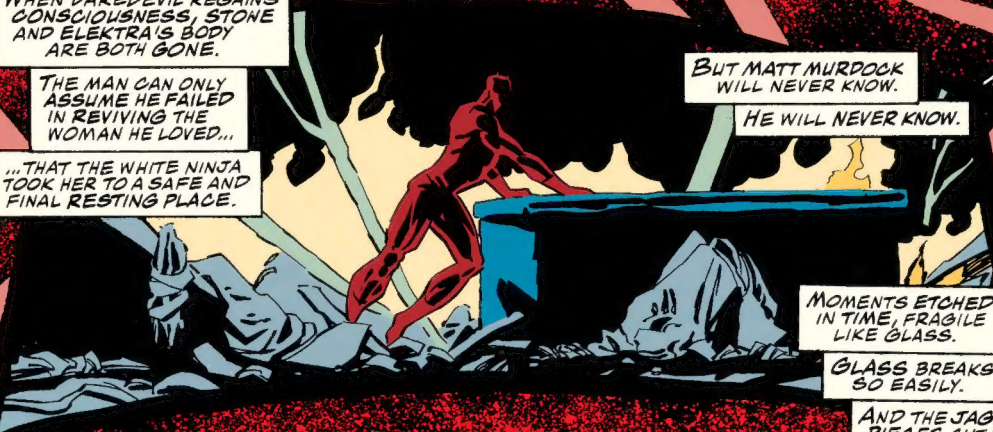
WHEN DAREDEVIL REGAINS
CONSCIOUSNESS, STONE
AND ELEKTRA'S BODY
ARE BOTH GONE.

THE MAN CAN ONLY
ASSUME HE FAILED
IN REVIVING THE
WOMAN HE LOVED...

...THAT THE WHITE NINJA
TOOK HER TO A SAFE AND
FINAL RESTING PLACE.

BUT MATT MURDOCK
WILL NEVER KNOW.

HE WILL NEVER KNOW.



MOMENTS ETCHED
IN TIME, FRAGILE
LIKE GLASS.

GLASS BREAKS
SO EASILY.

AND THE JAGGED
PIECES CUT DEEP...

The face of a lover is an unknown, precisely because it is invested with so much of oneself. It is a mystery, containing, like all mysteries, the possibility of torment.

James Baldwin
Another Country, 1962

FALL FROM GRACE PART 5

DESCENT

by
D.G. CHICHESTER
&
SCOTT McDANIEL
INKERS
COLAZOE/AVON
LETTERER
BILL OAKLEY
COLORIST
PAT GARRAHY
EDITOR
RALPH MACCHIO
CHIEF
TOM DEFALCO

TONIGHT, NEW
YORK CITY.

CENTRAL PARK'S
BELVEDERE CASTLE.

SOMEWHERE IN THE
FIVE BOROUGHS IS
HIDDEN "ABOUT FACE"...

--A VIRAL PROTOTYPE
WITH THE POWER TO
REMAKE WHOMEVER
IT INFECTS.

DAREDEVIL AND A SAI-
WIELDING PARTNER
HUNT THE VILLAINOUS
CULT CALLED SNAKEROOT,
BEFORE THOSE NINJAS
USE THE VIRUS TO BIRTH
A NIGHTMARE.

THE "LIVING" VAMPIRE
NAMED DR. MICHAEL
MORBIUS KNOWS
NONE OF THIS.

HE ONLY KNOWS THE
OBSCENE HUNGER
WITHIN THAT TELLS
HIM IT'S TIME TO FEED.



THE VAMPIRE'S MISTAKE IS MY ALLY, DAREDEVIL! DEPRIVING YOU OF YOUR ACCOMPLICE--

--AND LEAVING YOU OPEN--

--WHAT?!

NOT WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING, ENTEKI?

YOUR ATTACK ON THE YOUTH TELLS ME WHO IS INNOCENT AND WHO IS AGGRESSOR...

...AND THAT MY APPETITE WILL BE SATISFIED WITH THE TWO OF YOU!

IT'S CALLED BIO-MIMETICS--

--SYNTHETIC MATERIALS MADE WITH THE SAME TECHNIQUES USED BY NATURAL ORGANISMS.

ARMOR AND FABRIC WITH THE MOLECULAR TOUGHNESS OF STEEL-LIKE THINGS LIKE RAT TEETH AND SPIDER WEBBING.

TOUGH BREAK.

DAREDEVIL DOESN'T BOTHER EXPLAINING TO THE SNAKEROOT--


--NOT WHEN HE CAN SHOW HIM.

MORBIUS'S CONDITION IS THE MANGLED RESULT OF AN ARROGANT EXPERIMENT TO CURE HIMSELF OF A RARE BLOOD DISEASE.


THE CURE SHOULD'VE KILLED HIM--IT DIDN'T. OTHERS WHO'VE RUN INTO THE GOOD DOCTOR HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN SO LUCKY.

MY VOW IS TO FEED ONLY ON THE BLOOD OF CRIMINALS...

...MAKING YOU MY NEXT VICTIM, OUTLAW!



STONE
OF THE CHASTE
IS NO MAN'S
VICTIM!



YOU MAY HAVE
NOTICED I'M NO
MAN, NINJA!




YOUR SKIN--
TOO HARD
TO BREAK
THROUGH!



HRUKKK



NEITHER
ARE YOU TRULY
"MONSTER"!



YOU ARE
NO "UNDEAD"!
YOUR HEART
STILL BEATS--



--PUMPING
BLOOD OUT OF YOUR
WOUNDS--

--TO POOL
AROUND YOUR
BODY IN COOLING
PUDDLES!



NOT
EVERYONE
HERE IS AS WELL
GUARDED AS
YOU AND STONE,
DAREDEVIL...

... I'LL HAVE
AT LEAST ONE
LIFE IN REVENGE
FOR MY FATHER'S
DEATH!



TWIMP!

HIDDEN CONNECTORS SNAP TOGETHER.

BUILT-IN EXTENDERS TRIGGER OUTWARD.

I'M NOT LETTING YOU FINISH WHAT STONE'S STARTED.

SNAPT

SNAPT

INTERNAL RADAR SHOWS THE BLIND MAN STROBING ECHOES OF THE SHAFTS. HYPERSENSITIVE SKIN TRACKS THEM BY THE AIR PUSHED AHEAD OF THE ARROWS.

IMPRESSIVE... BUT WASTEFUL!

TWAAK!

LIKE GRAND-STANDING WITH THOSE SAIS IS SO PRODUCTIVE?

THE ENEMY IS NOT EVERYONE, STONE.

THIS MAN'S HURT... BADLY! THE WAY HE'S... DISTENDING...

AN INHUMAN QUALITY THAT CLEARLY TORTURES HIM... DEATH WOULD HAVE BEEN A BLESSING!

HIS INTERFERENCE WAS CERTAINLY OUR CURSE--IT'S COST US TIME WE DID NOT HAVE!

I SENSE THE SNAKEROOT HAVE USED ENTEKI'S DISTRACTION TO AN ADVANTAGE--THEY'VE CLEARED OUT, TAKING PASSIM WITH THEM!

I SAID MORBIUS IS HURT, AND WE HAVE TO HELP HIM! THE SNAKEROOT--AND EVEN EDDIE--WILL HAVE TO WAIT!

WHAT--WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MAN?

N-NOTHING... INSIDES TORN... NOTHING EXCEPT...

...BLOOD... I NEED BLOOD...

A LONG-FORGOTTEN
SUBWAY STATION, DEEP
BELOW CITY HALL.

A MURDEROUS CONSPIRACY
OF NINJA KNOWN AS THE
SNAKEROOT.

HURT HIM,
GENKOTSU!

YOU'RE NOT
SEEKING PAIN,
BUDO, BUT
INFORMATION!

HAVE TO
DO BETTER,
DOKA!

OR WORSE,
FERUZE!

SOMETHING
TROUBLES YOU, YOUNG
ENTEKI...

NO,
N- NOTHING,
TEKAGI...

...I WAS ONLY
WONDERING...

"FINE SCHOOLS"
REJECTED FERUZE FOR
NOTHING WORSE THAN RACE
AND BACKGROUND. OUR
TEACHINGS KNOW NO
RESTRICTIONS.

GENKOTSU
WAS A HOLY
MAN-- PERHAPS
HE STILL IS--
FINDING HIS
PEACE IN THE
CAREFUL
APPLICATION
OF PAIN...

EXACTLY
WHAT MANNER
OF "NIGHTMARE"
IT IS YOU'VE
JOINED?

THE UNKNOWN
CAN BE FRIGHTEN-
ING, SON. LET ME
DISPEL SOME OF
THE MYSTERY...

DOKA'S FLAME
WAS LIT BY A FAMILY
SKILLED IN ABUSE. HE
THINKS THEY WERE STILL
SLEEPING WHEN HE SET
FIRE TO THE VILLA...

...AS HERE
WITH EDWARD
PASSIM, HOLD-
ING THE SECRET
OF THE VIRUS WE
SEEK IN HIS MAD
BRAIN.

I-- WE-- WANT "ABOUT
FACE," EDDIE! WHERE
DID YOU LOSE IT, YOU
PATHETIC PIECE OF--

BUDO IS STILL
HENRY KENKOY, STILL
RELIVING THE SHAME
OF HIS COURT MARTIAL
AND TRYING TO
RECLAIM PAST
GLORIES...

LORD DAITO IS A
BORN LEADER... FORCED
TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF
SERVING UNDER THE
SHADOW OF THE "BEAST"
WE WORSHIP...

AND YOU,
GREAT
TEKAGI?

MY STORY IS
PARTICULARLY LONG...
AND NOT ONE THAT
WILL DO ANYTHING TO
QUIET YOUR
CONCERNS.

WHAT WE
ARE... IS NOT FOR
ALL. THE PRIDE OF
BEING SNAKEROOT
CAN BE GREAT, SON,
BUT SO CAN THE
REWARDS.

BOTH THE
ONES YOU HOLD
IN YOUR HAND,
AND THOSE YOU
FEEL IN YOUR
SOUL.

YOU DID WELL
AT THE CASTLE,
BOWMAN. THIS
BELONGED TO
YOUR FATHER...

HIS MASK...

WEAR IT
WITH PRIDE,
ENTEKI.

I'VE A
FEELING YOU'RE
GOING TO FIT
IN WELL HERE...
DON'T YOU?



THE SNAKEROOT HAVE OTHER PLANS! THEY HOLD PART OF HER ESSENCE--BITTER AND DARK, THE SOUL OF THE ASSASSIN--

--AND USE IT TO EMPOWER THEIR WARRIOR ERYNYS! THIS IS THE MANNER OF EVIL THE CHASTE MUST EVER FIGHT AGAINST!



THE "CHASTE"? STICK NEVER CALLED YOUR ORDER BY NAME.

YOUR TEACHER HAD A MORE COLORFUL FOUR-LETTER EQUIVALENT.



PARDON THE INTRUSION... BUT I NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR EARLIER. ALTHOUGH MISTAKING YOUR ACTIONS WAS UNFORGIVABLE...

...THERE MUST BE SOME WAY I CAN MAKE THINGS UP TO YOU?



THERE ARE QUESTIONS YOU CAN ANSWER, DOCTOR. EXPERT ADVICE YOU CAN PROVIDE REGARDING VIRUSES... AND TELEPATHY.

AN ODD MIX. THERE'S BEEN SOME HYPOTHETICAL RESEARCH, MOSTLY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IN THE SIXTIES...



FORGIVE THE LAB COAT. IT HELPS ME THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST.

YOU UNDERSTAND, I'M SURE. YOUR OWN UNIFORM... THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES TO YOU AND OTHERS.



DOES IT MATTER THAT MUCH?




INDEED! THIS NEW LOOK LEFT ME WONDERING WHO YOU WERE, DAREDEVIL...



...IT STILL DOES.





NORMAL VIRUSES
INJECT NUCLEIC ACID
AND PROTEIN ELEMENTS
INTO THE HOST CELL TO
BEGIN THE CONTROL
PROCESS.


A TELEPATHIC
VIRUS WOULD BE A
PARTICLE CLUTTERED
WITH GENE-SPliced
MATERIAL NEEDED
FOR THE MENTAL
CONTROL ASPECT--

--THERE
WOULD BE NO
ROOM FOR THE
NORMAL INTRO-
DUCTORY
PROTEINS AND
ACIDS!--

--REQUIRING
OTHER MEANS
OF ENTRY!

ONE WOULD BE
OVER A SUSPENSION
MEDIUM RICH IN
PROTEINS AND ACIDS,
THE VIRUS TRIGGERED
BY AN EXTERNAL
TELEPATH.

THE OTHER WAY IN
WOULD BE INGESTING
THE VIRUS DIRECTLY,
THEN HAVING YOUR
INDIVIDUAL THOUGHTS
"GUIDE" THE PARTICLE
INTO THE CELL.



THIS IS THE
SNAKEROOT'S GOAL!
USE EDDIE PASSIM
TO FIND THE LOST
VIRUS... AND FUSE
ELEKTRA'S ESSENCE
TO ERYNYS!

THIS
VIRUS... IT'S
REAL? IT
COULD
REWORK
MY CELLS
FROM
WITHIN--



--CURE MY
AFFLICTION!
RESTORE MY
HUMANITY...!

SETTLE DOWN,
MORBIUS! THIS
THING'S DAN-
GEROUS...
THERE ARE
ALREADY ENOUGH
PLAYERS LOOK-
ING TO KILL
EACH OTHER
OVER IT!

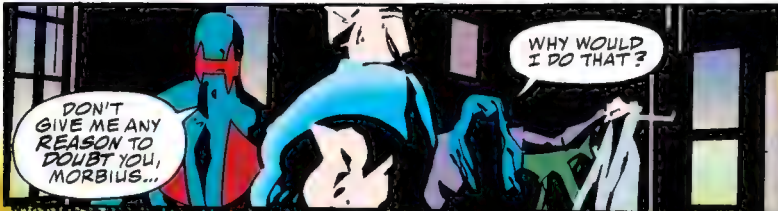


OF COURSE,
DAREDEVIL... NO NEED
TO WORRY. I'VE NO
INTEREST IN YOUR VIRUS,
AND NO WAY OF FINDING
IT IF I DID WANT IT...



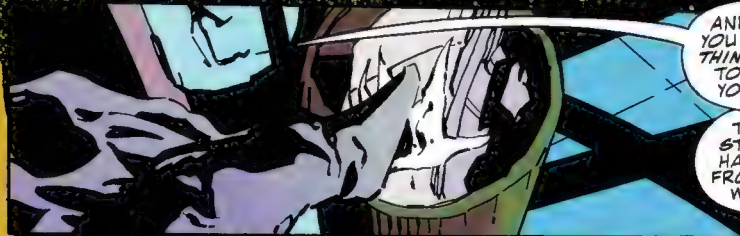
MORBIUS'S HEART SKIPS
ONLY TWO BEATS...

... BUT IT'S ENOUGH FOR
DAREDEVIL'S HYPER-
SENSSES TO TELL HIM THE
VAMPIRE'S A LIAR ON
BOTH COUNTS.



DON'T GIVE ME ANY REASON TO DOUBT YOU, MORBIUS...

WHY WOULD I DO THAT?



AND IT APPEARS YOU HAVE OTHER THINGS THAN ME TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH!

THE JANITORIAL STAFF LOOKS TO HAVE MOVED UP FROM THE WEEKLY WORLD NEWS...



I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

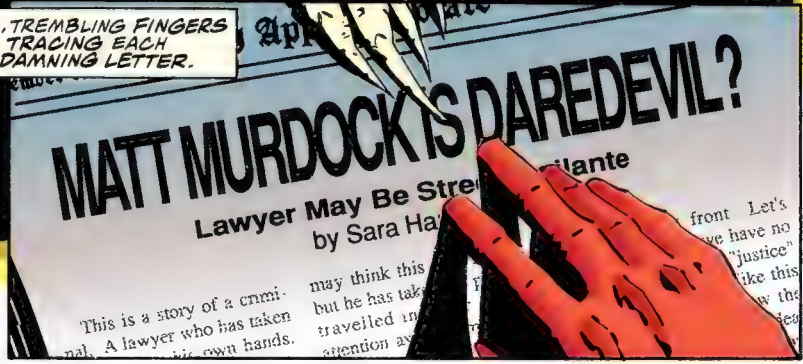


TROUBLE SEEING IN THE DARK? LET ME BRING IT A LITTLE CLOSER...



CLOSE ENOUGH FOR ENHANCED FEELING TO "READ" THE RAISED INK ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE BIG APPLE ADVOCATE...

...TREMBLING FINGERS TRACING EACH DAMNING LETTER.



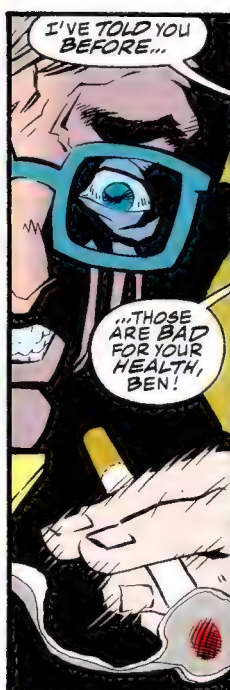
MATT MURDOCK IS DAREDEVIL?

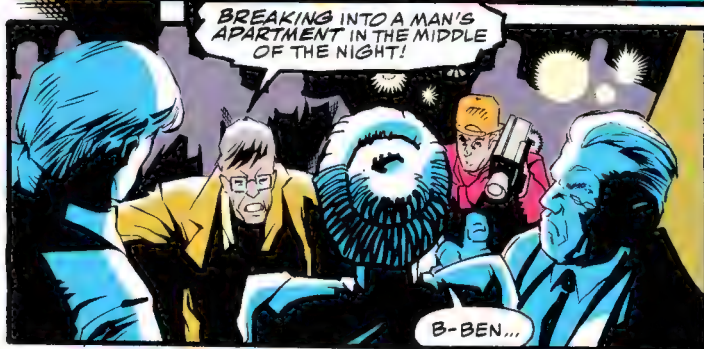
Lawyer May Be Street Vigilante
by Sara H...

This is a story of a criminal. A lawyer who has taken his own hands.

may think this but he has travelled in attention as

front Let's we have no "justice" like this w the den









THE LAW OFFICES
OF NELSON &
MURDOCK.

WORLDWIDE
PLAZA BUILDING.

"I WENT BY MATT'S
PLACE TO TALK TO
HIM LIKE YOU
ASKED, FOGGY..."



THE ARTHUR KILL, OFF
STATEN ISLAND.

AMONG A HALF-SUNKEN
GRAVEYARD OF SHIPS
AND TUGS.

DOES HE
SUSPECT WE
FOLLOW?

QUIET!

HE CAN-
NOT HEAR US,
DAREDEVIL, SO
LONG AS WE
"SPEAK" WITH
OUR MINDS.

HIS
ADRENALINE'S
HIGH, STONE,
BUT THERE'S
NO SCENT HE'S
NERVOUS... JUST
DESPERATE TO
FIND HIMSELF
A CURE!

MORBIUS
SPENT TIME UNDER
THE CITY DURING A...
"DISTURBED PERIOD."
THAT MAY HAVE PROVIDED
A CLUE TO THE VIRUS...
ASIDE FROM EDDIE...

YOU REMAIN
UNCOMFORTABLE
ABANDONING THE
HUNT FOR PASSIM,
DAREDEVIL... BUT
THE FASTEST ROUTE
TO THE VIRUS MUST
TAKE PRIORITY!

THIS MAY
NOT'VE BEEN
IT, STONE!

TOO SMALL BUT FOR
THE VAMPIRE'S ABILITY
TO DISTEND...

TOO BAD
SIEGE TOOK
HIMSELF OUT OF
THE LOOP-- HE
WAS AFRAID THE
VIRUS WAS TOO
MUCH TEMPTA-
TION FOR HIS OWN
PROBLEMS--

-- HE COULD'VE USED
HIS HARDWARE TO TRACK
MORBIUS THROUGH THE
WALLS!

WE, ON
THE OTHER
HAND, HAVE
TO GO
AROUND...



DOWN.

WHAT IS IT?

SOME IDIOT BEHIND US JUST CHAMBERED A ROUND!

NOT JUST ANY IDIOT, PALLY...

KLIK-CHNK

BRAKA-BRAKA-BRAKA!

...NAME'S JOHN GARRETT, S.H.I.E.L.D. CYBORG, AND A REAL MAN'S MAN!

YOU DON'T SEE ME RUNNIN' AROUND IN TIGHTS, NOW, DO YA?

DON'T BE SO RECKLESS, DAREDEVIL...

CAN'T HELP IT-- COMES WITH THE NAME!

MY ARMOR CAN HOLD IT OFF, SOME...

PTING!

KTANG!

KTING!

PTANG!

...MY BODY IS A SHIELD AGAINST ANY THREAT I'M AWARE OF!

SHE GIVES NO WARNING
AS SHE MOVES WITH A
NINJA'S SILENCE...

ONLY RADAR
SIGNALS HER
PRESENCE...

...AND ONLY REFLEXES MOST
MEN CAN EVER DREAM OF
LET DAREDEVIL EVADE
ERYNYS'S ATTACK.

...COLD FLESH GIVES
OFF NO WARMTH FOR
ENHANCED FEELING
TO REACT AGAINST.

HRRNNGKK

DON'T LEAVE
ME, MATT...

I KNOW YOU...
FROM HER! I KNOW
HOW GOOD
ELEKTRA MADE
YOU FEEL--

--TOUCH ME
LIKE YOU
TOUCHED HER,
TASTE ME--

--AND
HOW MUCH
SHE HURT
YOU!

I'D DIE
TO BE THE
SAME TO
YOU... IN
FACT, I
DID!



WHO--?!

TOO LATE TO GROW HARD, STONE!

TOO LATE TO STOP ME FROM CLAIMING ELEKTRA'S "LIFE" FOR MY OWN FOREVER!

IT WAS SO EASY TO FOLLOW YOUR STEPS, CHASTE...

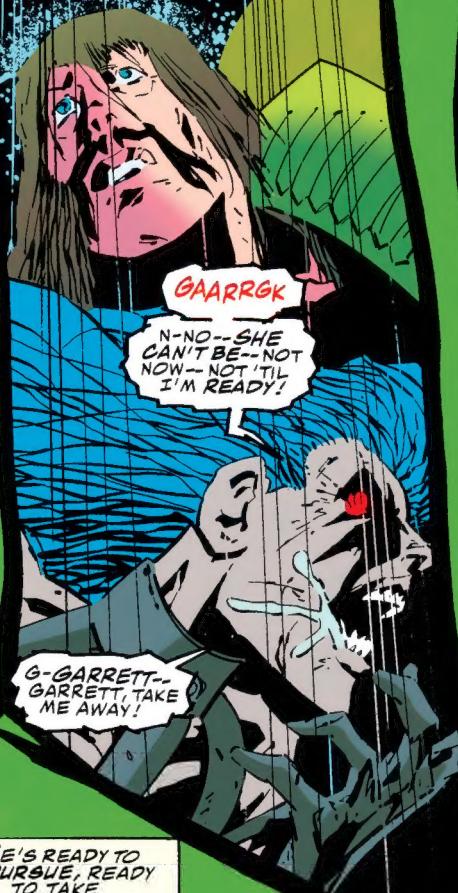
...YOU SHOULD'VE SHAKEN THE SNOW FROM YOUR BOOTS BEFORE YOU CAME DOWN OFF YOUR PRECIOUS MOUNTAIN!

ELEKTRA! BABE!

THE NAME IS ERYNYS, GARRETT! ERYNYS!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROTEST SO LOUD... THERE'S NO MISTAKING YOU FOR HER!

YOU WOUND ME, MATT... I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO RETURN THE FAVOR!



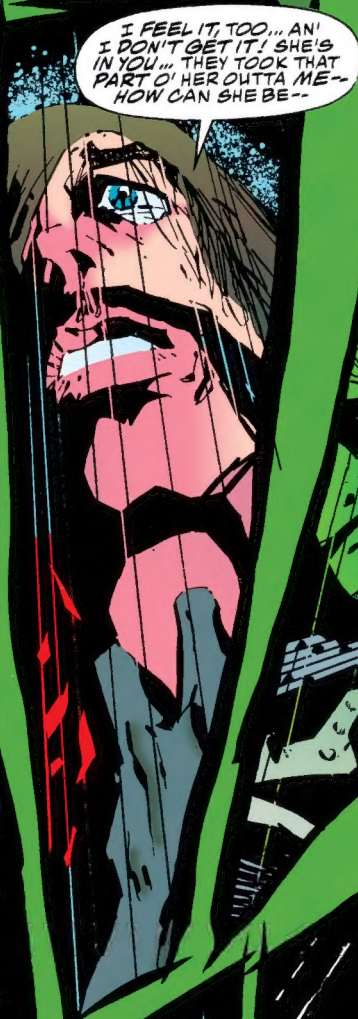
GAARRGK

N-NO--SHE
CAN'T BE--NOT
NOW--NOT 'TIL
I'M READY!

G-GARRETT--
GARRETT, TAKE
ME AWAY!

HE'S READY TO
PURSUE, READY
TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF
THEIR CONFUSION...

... WHEN HE'S
SUDDENLY
OVERCOME
WITH HIS OWN.



I FEEL IT, TOO... AN!
I DON'T GET IT! SHE'S
IN YOU... THEY TOOK THAT
PART O' HER OUTTA ME--
HOW CAN SHE BE--

YEAH...
YEAH, ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GET BOTH
OF US OUTTA
HERE!

IN THE BLACKNESS,
HE REMEMBERS HER
KISS ON HIS LIPS--

--AND TASTES
HER ANEW.

SENSES REEL
OUT OF CONTROL.

THIS
WAS ALWAYS
MY LABOR,
STONE...



SURROUNDED BY
DARK, HER PERFUME
FILLS HIM--

--THE SCENT AT
ONCE EXOTIC AND
OH-SO-WELL-KNOWN.

AND DAREDEVIL REACHES OUT
FROM HIS PRIVATE NIGHT, HANDS
WEAK AS THEY ONCE MORE TOUCH
A FAMILIAR WARMTH...

ELEKTRA?
ELEKTRA...

HELLO,
MATT...

NEXT: SNAKEROOT, MORBIUS,
SIEGE, AND A LADY NAMED
ELEKTRA: "SALVATION
FOR THE DAMNED!"